

PE1841/EE

Verona Gibson submission of 10 March 2021

I am writing in support of this petition as someone with a loved one who, to my mind, has been effectively imprisoned in their care home for almost 12 months.

While most of the discourse has centered round elderly residents very little attention has been given to the many young people who live in residential care settings.

For many of these young adults all of the structures that made up their daily lives have been completely dismantled and they have suffered physical, emotional and mental health distress during this pandemic that may well have life-long consequences for their futures.

My loved one has sent poignant messages to the Scottish Government highlighting the distress and pain that the separation from their family has caused during this time.

In these messages they indicated that they feel "stuck and down on their knees". They feel their life is being destroyed and that they are "getting nowhere".

They also ask what will getting their second vaccination mean. Will it mean that they can go home because, at the moment, they feel like they have lost their family.

Family is everything to them. I believe that they should never have been separated from their family in this cruel way with little regard to their human right to family life.

I believe that there should have been a designated family carer to allow them to maintain a close bond to their family, which, I believe, would have helped to ease the pain that this separation from their family has caused.